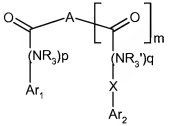
Claim Amendments:

1 to 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A compound which binds the G-quadruplex structure of DNA or RNA having the formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein m, p and q, are identical or different integers from 0 to 1

wherein

A is

a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic radical containing a sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen,

wherein the heterocyclic radical is optionally substituted with one or more substituents chosen from halogen, C1-C4 alkyl, thio, oxy or amino substituents wherein any such substituents are optionally substituted with one or more short-chain alkyl chains containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

wherein when ~~the heterocyclic radical represented by~~ A is pyridyl, ~~a pyridine, the pyridine is 2,6-disubstituted or 2,4-disubstituted with~~ A is meta-disubstituted with the groups $Ar_1 - (NR_3)p - CO$ and $(CO)m - (NR'_3)q - X - Ar_2$;

- Ar_1 and Ar_2, which are the same,

are a nitrogen-containing aromatic ring possessing a quaternary atom represented by a quinoline optionally substituted with at least

- one group N(Ra)(Rb) wherein Ra and Rb, are identical or different, are hydrogen or C1-C4 alkyl or
- one C1-C4 alkyl or alkoxy group, or

◊ wherein the nitrogen atom is quaternized with a C1-C4 alkyl chain optionally substituted with a hydroxyl, carboxyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, C1-C4 alkylthio, amino, C1-C4 alkylamino or C1-C4 dialkylamino for each alkyl group;

- R_3 and R'_3, are identical or different, are independently hydrogen, C1-C4 alkyl or aralkyl wherein alkyl is C1-C4;

- X is a single bond, or C1-C4 alkyl, a C2-C4 alkenyl, alkynyl or phenyl;

said compound of formula (Ia) may be in all the possible isomeric forms; or an addition salt with an inorganic or organic acid or with an inorganic or organic base of said compound of formula (Ia).

13. (Previously presented) The compound of formula (Ia) according to claim 12 wherein X is C1-C4 alkyl, the other substituents of the compound of formula (Ia) being as defined in claim 12, said compound of formula (Ia) may be in all the possible isomeric forms; or an addition salt with an inorganic or organic acid or with an inorganic or organic base of said compound of formula (Ia).

14. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12, wherein A is chosen from the heterocyclic groups pyridyl or thienyl.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12, wherein A is meta-disubstituted with the groups $Ar_1 - (NR_3)p - CO$ and $(CO)m - (NR'_3)q - Ar_2$, and wherein A is optionally substituted by halogen.

17 to 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The compound according to claim 12, wherein m, p and q are the integer 1.

20. (Original) The compound according to claim 12, wherein p and q are the integer 1.

21. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12, wherein Ar_2 is selected from the group consisting of 4-amino- or 4-methylamino-, 4-dimethylamino- or 4-alkoxy-–quinolinium, wherein said quinolinium is optionally substituted with one or two methyl groups.

22. (Original) The compound according to claim 12, wherein R_3 and R'_3 are hydrogen.

23. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12, selected from the group consisting of:
- bis[(1-methylquinolinio-6-yl)amido]-2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid diiodide;
- bis[(1-methylquinolinio-6-yl)amido]-2,6-pyrazinedicarboxylic acid diiodide;
- bis[(1-methylquinaldinio-6-yl)amido]-2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid diiodide;
- bis[(1-methylquinolin-6-yl)amido]-2,4-pyridinedicarboxylic acid diiodide;

- bis[(1-methylquinolinio-3-yl)amido]-2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid diiodide;
and
- 4-bromo-2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid bis[(1-methylquinolinio-3-yl)amide] diiodide,
said compound may be in all the possible isomeric forms; or an addition salt with an inorganic or organic acid or with an inorganic or organic base of said compound.

24.- 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12, which has a telomerase inhibiting activity.

27. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 12 having the formula (Ia), said compound of formula (Ia) may be in all the possible isomeric forms; or an addition salt with a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic acid or with an inorganic or organic base of said compound of formula (Ia).

30. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective ~~cancer inhibiting~~ amount of a compound of claim 12.

31. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, further comprising active ingredients of other chemotherapy medicaments against cancer.

32 - 42 (Cancelled)